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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 13 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text of a joint Kazakh-Russian communiqué on the State visit of the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, to Kazakhstan on 12 and 13 October 1998 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 45, 93, 101, 102 and 110, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Kazakhstan to the
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(Signed) S. LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
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to the United Nations

98-30452 (E)

ANNEX

Joint Kazakh-Russian communiqué on the State visit of the President of the Russian Federation to Kazakhstan

On 12 and 13 October 1998, at the invitation of the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev, the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, made a State visit to Kazakhstan.

During their talks, Mr. Nazarbaev and Mr. Yeltsin thoroughly discussed topical issues and prospects for Kazakh-Russian relations and held a comprehensive exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The heads of State noted with satisfaction that the multifaceted cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, which is of priority importance to both countries, is progressing steadily and becoming increasingly more dynamic.

They stressed that the Kazakh-Russian Declaration on Eternal Friendship and Alliance in the Twenty-first Century, signed by the Presidents in Moscow on 6 July 1998, was of fundamental importance in bringing about a qualitative change in their bilateral relations.

The leaders of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation reaffirmed the determination of the sides to increase, on the basis of that strategic document, their joint efforts with a view to intensifying and improving the effectiveness of wide-ranging cooperation in all fields.

The most important outcome of the talks was the conclusion of the Treaty between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation on Economic Cooperation and the corresponding Programme for 1998-2007, which have opened up new perspectives for the mutually advantageous development of trade, industrial cooperation, investment and scientific and technological cooperation in key areas, and the intensification of ties between regions and economic agents.

The Presidents signed the Agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation on the Settlement of Financial Matters. They noted with satisfaction that, through their joint efforts, they had managed to find a mutually acceptable solution to this important problem, which should ensure the stability of financial and economic cooperation between the two countries, including the operation under lease of the Baikonur complex and other facilities in the territory of Kazakhstan.

The heads of State discussed the question of the legal registration of the State border between Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation and signed the relevant Protocol under which the Governments of the parties shall begin, in 1999, negotiations on the demarcation of the State border between Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

A considerable number of intergovernmental and interdepartmental instruments were signed, including agreements on social rights and guarantees for civilians residing and/or working at the Baikonur complex, the establishment and conditions for the operation of information and cultural centres, cooperation in combating illegal traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, cooperation and mutual assistance to combat unlawful financial operations involving the legalization of illegal income, and conditions for the establishment and servicing of diplomatic missions of Kazakhstan in the Russian Federation and of the Russian Federation in Kazakhstan.

The Presidents expressed their support for the further intensification of Kazakh-Russian cooperation in the humanitarian field, including constructive interaction to guarantee the rights of citizens and subjects of the parties residing in the territory of the other party. In that context, they stressed the importance of the regular joint work of the human rights commissions attached to the offices of the Presidents of the two countries.

The exchange of views demonstrated the unity of the Presidents of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation in their fundamental approach to assessing the role and place of, and prospects for, the activities of the Commonwealth of Independent States in acting the interests of all its members.

In the light of developments on the Commonwealth's external borders and in adjacent regions, the Presidents spoke out in favour of extending the Treaty on Collective Security of 15 May 1992.

In their discussion of international problems, Mr. Nazarbaev and Mr. Yeltsin expressed their deep concern at the continuing bloody conflict in Afghanistan. They emphasized the importance of close cooperation among Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and other countries of the Commonwealth to find ways of safeguarding its southern borders. Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation are firmly convinced that peace and stability in Afghanistan can be achieved only through a political dialogue between the parties to the conflict, under United Nations auspices and with the mediation of interested States in the spirit of Security Council resolution 1193 (1998) of 28 August 1998.

The talks between the Presidents of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation were held in the usual atmosphere of mutual understanding and constructive cooperation, which are characteristic of relations between the leaders of the two States.

The State visit of the President of the Russian Federation to Kazakhstan marked a new stage in the strengthening of friendship between the two countries and peoples.

The President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, expressed his thanks to the leaders and people of Kazakhstan for their warm welcome and invited the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev, to make a State visit to the Russian Federation.

The invitation was accepted with gratitude. The time of the visit will be agreed on at a later date.